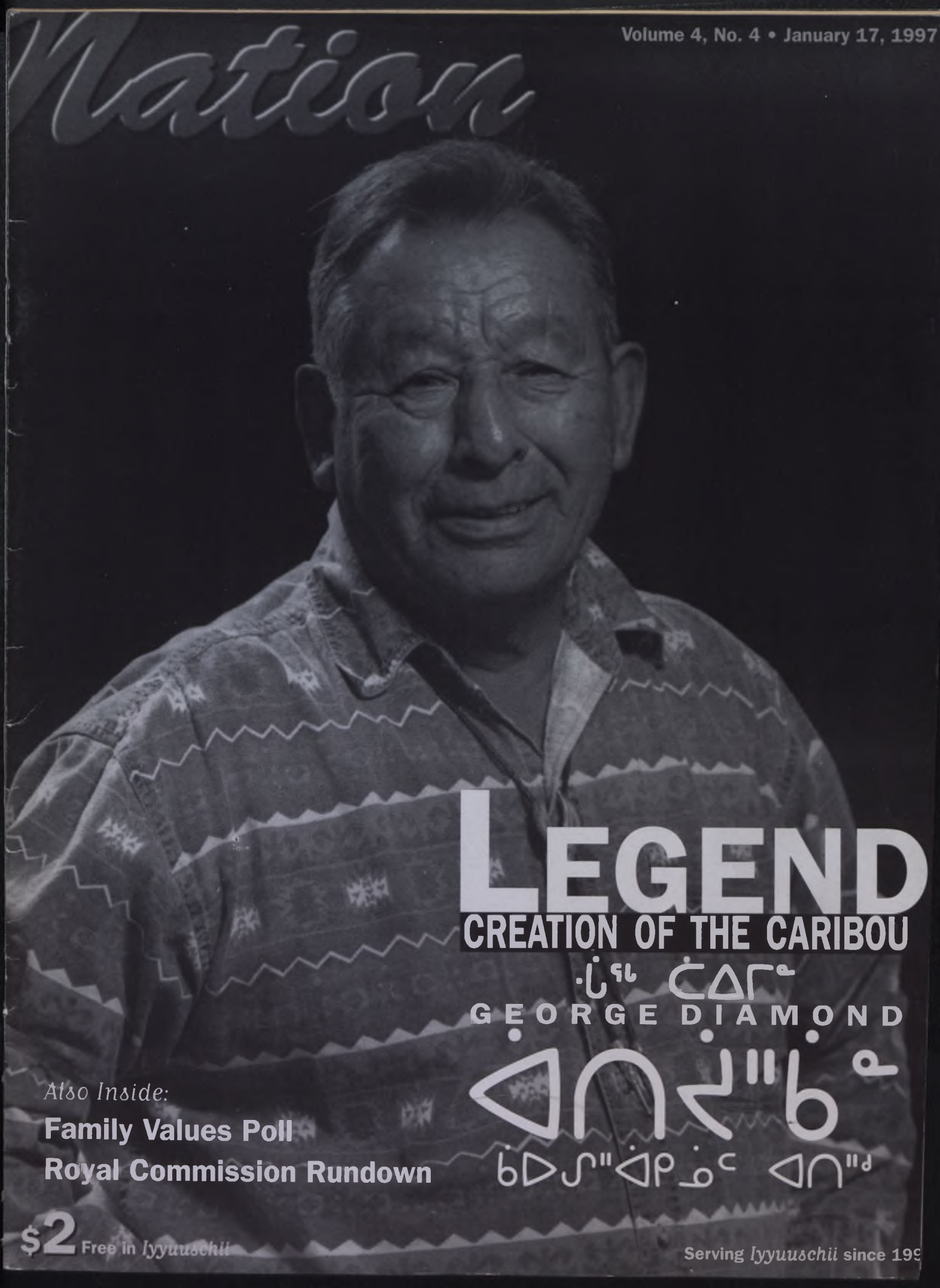
Volume 4, No. 4 • January 17, 1997

Nation



LEGEND

CREATION OF THE CARIBOU

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GEORGE DIAMOND

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Also Inside:

Family Values Poll

Royal Commission Rundown

$2 Free in *Iyyuuschii*

Serving *Iyyuuschii* since 19

Enjoying your Lunch?

National Tobacco Awareness Week
from January 19-26 1997

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

A TRADITION UNDER FIRE

New Years was different this year. A familiar sound was missing. One that I always felt was unique to Cree communities and an important tradition.

A new by-law was delivered just after Christmas to each household banning the firing of guns on December 25th, 26th, 31st and January 1st on Category I lands and any Category III lands enclosed by Category I lands.

No longer at midnight would I or others be allowed to bring in the New Year with a bang. After the holidays I learned that other Cree communities are considering or have already banned this tradition, too.

Safety is obviously a concern when it comes to firing guns into the air. Who could enjoy living in fear of a bullet crashing through their roof in the middle of the night? In other parts of the world, dozens of people are killed every year when firearms are discharged into the air at various celebrations, protests, comemmorations, etc.

But these are usually areas which are highly populated and where safety precautions are not a big consideration.

There is another side to the tradition of shooting guns at New Years. You would hear the shots going off all over the community. You would know that others like yourself were celebrating the end of a year and the beginning of another.

From where the sounds were originating you could tell where friends and family had gathered together. It felt like community spirit in action.

I only wish there had been more time and consultation so all viewpoints could have been presented. Perhaps a compromise could have been reached to ensure both safety and the continuation of a tradition.

One obvious idea would be to have a designated spot for everyone to gather, like at the shore of the lake. Police could also be present to make sure everything is done safely and everyone has their wits about them.

With more discussion and contemplation, I think people will probably be able to come up with other ideas for how to keep everyone happy, safe and reassured. The holidays should be a time of merriment for all which everybody should be able to enjoy in their own way, without disturbing someone else's peace of mind.

On that note, all of us here at *The Nation* hope you and yours enjoyed your holiday. May the Creator grant you the best of everything in the coming year.

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

CONTENTS

NEWS

5 "I'M NOT A RACIST"
COACH SORRY (SORT OF)

5 HQ SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
CREES NOT CONSULTED

7 HUNGER SETS IN
WEEK 14 OF BLOCKADE

7 BRIEFS: SUSPICIOUS DEATH, 85% OPPOSE INDIAN ACT CHANGES

ᐃᑎᕐᒃ

10 ᑲᐅᔪᓐᐊᑭᓵᒃ ᐊᑎᓐᐧ
THE LEGEND SERIES

AUTOS

12 MONTREAL AUTOSHOW
A MUST FOR THE SERIOUS BUYER

COMMISH

16 PEOPLE TO PEOPLE...
COMMISSION ROYALE

POLL

19 FAMILY VALUES SURVEY
WHAT YOU THINK

COVER PHOTO:
George Diamond
Photo by Neil Diamond

JAN. 17, 1997

REZ NOTES

So, I hopped on the kangaroo express back to my home rez after three years this past Christmas and New Years. Montreal, Val d'Or, Nemaska and finally, my ole home town Waskaganish. Back to the simple life. Or so I thought.

Once off the plane, a perfunctory search through our baggage was done in a makeshift shelter outside the terminal while we nervously puffed on cigarettes in the cold (Zey haff vays off makink you talk.). My God, I thought. What if they find that bottle of wine I have for Christmas dinner? Or that gift of Crown Royal? Or those miniature bottles they serve on airplanes? Waskaganish is known for coming down hard on liquor. I found out later that at one time the fine for possession of a 40 ounce bottle of liquor was 2000 dollars. I believe the fine now is $250. More than double the going rate for a bottle on the street.

I needn't have worried so much though. That was the quickest search of my bags I had ever had to go through and nothing was confiscated. "They have too much traffic this time of year," someone explained.

It's easy to make the connection between alcohol and another hot topic in Waskaganish. The future access road. Someone had just made it through the winter road two days before Christmas and there were the usual complaints on the state of the road. Someone high up in the local government predicted there would be a real road by the year 2000. That's if construction starts by 1999. Ottawa and Quebec City, of course, are stalling because it wouldn't look good for them to be giving so much money to such a small group to build a road. SEBJ's blueprints for a road have most likely been in storage the morning after Bourassa dreamed his impossible dream. A forestry company is also dying to build one from Lasarre. All that much easier for them to get to our trees and whatever else they can steal. The ideal route would run on the north side of the Rupert but that would require the construction of a bridge and the Feds will not put up the one million for it.

So who or what is going to pay for the road? Bingos? Will there ever be a road? The band has, so far, spent 7 million of its own funds for the upkeep of, in the words of a visitor, the "squirrel trail." I don't know about you but I'm starting to get embarassed. And not just because I ran off the unofficially opened road after driving in from Chisasibi. We had just left the James Bay highway only minutes into the trail when my friend said, "You just have to watch out for this sharp curve somewhere up ahead." A split second later he said, "This is it!" " Yegoh, Aaron!!" he called to his son. I panicked and ended up on the snowbank. At the very same spot where we had to pull out a romantic couple a week before.

The lack of money isn't the only problem with Waskaganish having a road. There is also the matter of traplines and outsiders coming in and causing more problems. The proposed "engineer's route" cuts through three or four traplines and someone want s compensation should the dream become a reality. Totally understandable when you consider that the present road and a gravel pit has run through his territory for the past... what is it... 15, 20 years? And he's never asked for a cent until now. And of course there are the socio-economic questions that have to be answered. We'll leave that to the experts to address.

Will Waskaganish have a road to blockade should the inevitable country-wide call to do so arrive?

Ndiamon

the Nation

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THANKS TO:
Beulah Stewart, Mike Ryan (for the poster), Air Creebec, Cree School Board (Mistissini)

The Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications.

Printed by Hebdolitho.

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Publication Mail #0584584
ISSN #1206-2642

The Nation is a member of: the James Bay Cree Communications Society, Circle of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers, Canadian Magazine Publishers Assn, Quebec Community Newspaper Assn, and Canadian Community Newspapers' Assn

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER: 5413 Hutchison, Montreal, Qc., H2V 4B4
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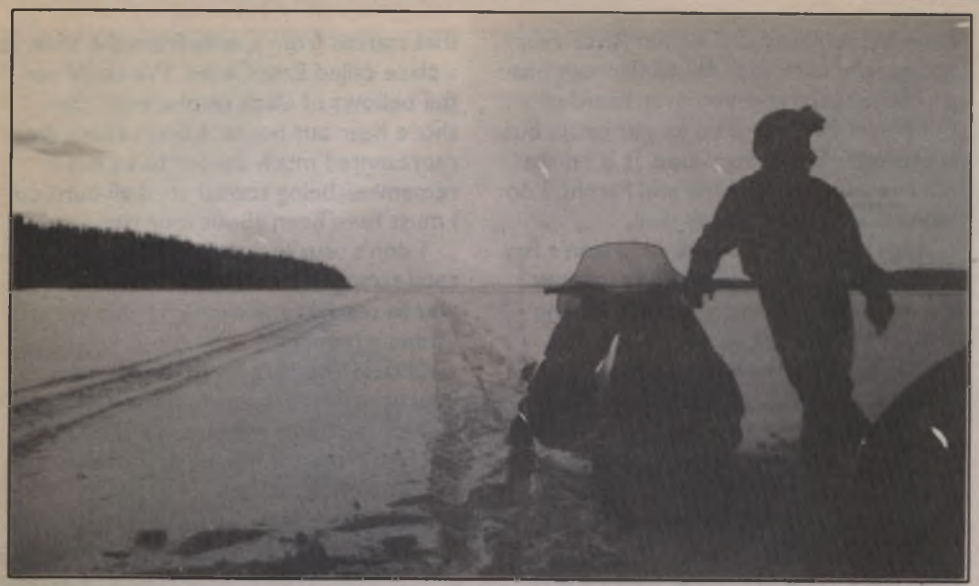
SUBSCRIPTIONS
Individuals: $65
Institutions: $75
Abroad: Individuals: $70 U.S.
Abroad: Institutions: $85 U.S.
Payable to Beesum Communications



"I KNOW IT'S NOT NICE WHAT I SAID"

BUT I'M NOT A RACIST: VAL D'OR HOCKEY COACH SWEARS

Val d'Or hockey coach Yvanhoé Bélisle says he's sorry he called a young Cree hockey player a "savage," but says everybody uses language like that and it's just part of hockey.

"I know it's not nice what I said. It's part of the game. I say things that everybody says," Bélisle told *The Nation* in a phone interview.

"Why make a drama about it if I call him a savage or a Cawich? They call us f***ing frogs. We don't sue them for that. Why am I a racist? C'mon," said Bélisle.

The word "Cawich" is a derogatory slang word for Natives used in Northern Quebec.

The incident occurred after a heated hockey game between the Val d'Or and Chibougamau-Chapais Bantam CC teams in late November, hosted by Val d'Or. It was the first time the Val d'Or team lost this season.

After the game, Bélisle, 44, was angry because a Chibougamau team member who is Cree had cross-checked one of his players and put him in the hospital. He allegedly started screaming racist insults in a corridor. According to Jerry Poirier, manager of the Chibougamau team, Bélisle yelled: "F***ing savages. I'm going to go find some AA players and we will destroy the f***ing savages."

Poirier said the cross-check was legal and didn't result in a penalty.

Bélisle's version of what he said is slightly different: "Your guy is a f***ing savage."

Bélisle, a father of three, said he's coached lots of Crees and has three Native youth on his own team. He said he's even been invited to go goose hunting by some Crees. "I'm nice people. I've got a good family. I've coached Chinese people, I've coached every people and nobody said nothing about me."

But Poirier stands by what he heard and adds that there have been other complaints about Bélisle in the past. He says there are four other witnesses to back him up.

Daniel Ménard, coach of the Chibougamau team, was also present. "In all this, we shouldn't forget that these statements were addressed to youths of 14 and 15 years. I understand that for him the provincial final is important but I believe that as a volunteer we must respect the youth who come out to skate," he was quoted as telling the newspaper *Le Sentinelle*.

Poirier and Chief Abel Bosum, the father of one of the kids on the Chibougamau squad, made complaints to the Bantam CC League and called for Bélisle to be disciplined. Chief Bosum went so far as to say Cree chiefs would consider moving the annual December hockey tournament out of Val d'Or if nothing was done.

The Chibougamau team players, who are 14 and 15 years old, were in their changing room and apparently didn't hear Bélisle's remarks.

Gérald MacDonald, president of the league, said the league "disapproves" of Bélisle's comments, and has referred the matter to a disciplinary committee. "What happened isn't good for hockey, it's not good for the league," MacDonald told *The Nation*.

by Alex Roslin

CREES IGNORED IN JAMES BAY

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

Without consulting the Crees, Hydro-Quebec is proposing to build a $2-million snowmobile trail to connect Radisson to Chibougamau.

Under discussion for at least a few months, Crees first heard about the plan just before Christmas.

The trail will cut through Nemaska and will allow tourists from the South to pass through Iyiyuuschii, which has Chief George Wapachee of Nemaska concerned.

"I would have some concerns because at least we think Crees should be informed about what's going on in the territory," he said.

"I know they are talking about opening up the territory, but if they want to open it up they have to involve the people more. They have to involve the tallymen. This thing is imposed on us. The area is very sensitive. (The trail) could scare game away."

No impact study has been done on the economic, social or environmental effects of the trail. The snowmobile trail has yet to be discussed by chiefs at the Council/ Board level.

Meanwhile, Quebec has already allocated the funding for the project.

"It's already done and we get told at the end," said Chief Wapachee, who added that he was "surprised" when he heard about the idea for the trail.

"That kind of stuff doesn't provide for good relations."

All efforts made by *The Nation* to find out more about the proposed snowmobile trail have so far been unsuccessful.

Hydro-Quebec officials did not return our calls. Lebel-sur-Quévillon mayor Gerald LeMoyne, who is promoting the snowmobile trail, did not return our call.

Neither did anyone from the Conseil Regionale de la Radissonie, which is also involved.

It is also not known if Crees will get any of the work to build the trail. Apparently, it will follow the existing network of lakes, rivers and Hydro lines, and paths will be cut through areas that are otherwise inaccessible.

- Alex Roslin

Memories of Oskelaneo River

This letter was sent to my father and concerns a non-Native Elder who witnessed some of Cree history. I thought it would be interesting to see if anyone can remember the place(s) she is talking about. Any replies can be forwarded directly to her or through The Nation. We would be interested from hearing from people who remember those times. We thank people in advance for their assistance.

- Will Nicholls

Mr. Nicholls,

Enclosed is your Legion membership card. Congratulations - you're an "Early Bird." Your name will go in our draw for $25 - to be drawn at a meeting in December.

As I note the region of Quebec you are in it brings to mind my childhood.

The very early years. Perhaps you know of the community (or rather small village) where I was born and lived until about age 7?

I was born in Oskelaneo River. I can still recall the annual "Indian" migration from the north to Oskelaneo River every spring (and back each fall to Chibougamau or Mistassini). Have you ever heard of this place? Perhaps it no longer exists but it was once a thriving village. It is on the rail line between Coloria and Parent. I do believe there is a road as well.

I recall a general store, a Hudson's Bay store, at least one hotel and restaurant. We even had a theatre of sorts for the odd movie and of course the railroad station. A Catholic church and a Protestant church/school (Anglican).

The railroad tracks ran through the village - a natural division between the French and English it would seem.

I also recall the Indian women with their babies in the carrier, which by rawhide draped over their heads and hung down their backs. Those who stayed the winter in Oskelaneo River lived for the most part in double-walled tents - banked with snow.

These are just a few of my childhood memories about my birthplace. I've yet to meet anyone outside of family who knows where this place is. I wondered if you would?

I remember one summer - a forest fire that started from sparks from the train, at a place called East Cache. We could see the bellows of black smoke from the shore near our house. I don't know if it represented much danger to us but I remember being scared we'd all burn up. I must have been about four years old.

I don't usually prattle on like this to a total stranger. I apologize if I've bored you to tears in any event. Thanks for listening (reading)!

Should you care to respond to my questions - do you know where Oskelaneo River is and is it still existing today you may reach me at: Box 58, Larder Lake, Ontario, P0K 1N0.

Sincerely,

Betty Oskring

Stanstead College

For those who Dare to Excel

Stanstead College prepares girls and boys for university and helps them develop the means to succeed far beyond the classroom. By promoting a healthy lifestyle, fostering a strong sense of citizenship and motivating students to become intellectually self-reliant, the faculty and staff at Stanstead encourage every student to reach his or her full potential.

Stanstead Scholarships

Each year a number of entrance scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic performance, athletic abilities, character, leadership qualities and other demonstrated abilities.

All boys and girls entering Grades 7 through 11 may compete for entrance scholarships. Students entering at the Grade 10 level may be eligible for a full scholarship.

Applications for the 1997-98 school year are now being accepted. Scholarship competitions will be held on February 22 nd, 1997. Scholarship candidates must apply by February 17 th, 1997.

Andrew Elliot, Director of Admissions
Stanstead College, 4 Dufferin Road, Stanstead, Quebec, Canada J0B 3E0
Tel. 819-876-2223 Fax 819-876-5891

Stanstead College is an independent, co-educational boarding and day school - Grades 7 through 12

Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Mr. Clarence Snowboy from Chisasibi participated in a training in France and Italy with a group of fifteen students from the *Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue*. "This experience has given us the chance to study the economic, politic and social aspects, which are different from ours, and to comprehend the organisational culture of these different companies visited", he said. The organisation wishes to thank all of the people who collaborated to the realisation of this project.

Platinum Investors
1000$ or more
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Chee-Bee Construction inc.
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Wiichihiituun Development Corporation

Silver Investors
250$ to 499$
Chisasibi Coop.
James Bay Eeyou Corporation

Hunger widespread in Barrière Lake as blockade enters 14th week

Life is getting desperate in the Algonquin community of Barrière Lake as its blockade of a logging road in La Vérendrye Park enters its fourth month.

Food and other basic necessities are in short supply since virtually everyone in the community has been forced onto welfare and hunting activities have been disrupted.

"The community is having a very difficult time right now. They don't have too much to depend on to survive," said Harry Wawatie, an Algonquin elder appointed by the community as chief last March. Wawatie isn't recognized by Ottawa.

Frustrations are growing as Ottawa refuses to take Algonquin concerns about clearcutting seriously. To increase the pressure, the community is now considering moving its blockade to Highway 117, the main artery linking Montreal to Val d'Or.

"Some families are completely destitute. They have nothing to eat. Almost everyone is on welfare. With the barricade they haven't had a chance to hunt for moose," said Michel Gratton, a former Quebec cabinet minister advising the Algonquins on a volunteer basis.

"They are suffering many hardships," said Gratton, who said the Algonquins are requesting contributions of food and money to alleviate the worsening conditions in the community.

The Algonquins blockaded a logging road near their community in late October as a protest against clearcutting on their ancestral lands and against Ottawa's interference in the band's affairs. The community has been in turmoil since last January 23, when Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin stepped in to remove Barrière Lake's long-time chief, saying he lacked community support.

Now, nearly a year later, the community still doesn't have a recognized chief, all but a handful of people in the 450-member reserve have lost their jobs and were forced onto welfare, and most of the children have missed nearly a year of school since nearly all band services were shut down.

Most community members believe Irwin removed the former chief, Jean-Maurice Matchewan, because he led a noisy campaign against logging interests in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The blockade threatens hundreds of jobs in the region. The possibility of layoffs has prompted Guy Chevrette, Quebec's Minister of Natural Resources and Native Affairs, to send a stern letter to Irwin, taking Ottawa to task for how it has handled the conflict with the community.

"The only card they have is the blockade. Any time they've got any justice is when they've blocked a road," said Gratton. "The school is all boarded up. There are children in the streets. People have lost weight. They look despondent. They're going through something (the feds) will never know about sitting in (their offices). The community's patience is wearing very thin."

For info on making a donation, please call (819) 449-5480.

by Alex Roslin

Native man dies in police custody

Calgary police are under a cloud of suspicion after two people died in police custody in under a week.

Derwin Many Fires, 27, of the Siksika Nation 70 km east of Calgary died in a Calgary hospital on Sat., Jan. 11.

He was arrested for alleged public intoxication but suffered severe head injuries as he was being booked into a downtown police cell on Dec. 21.

Family members maintained a two-week vigil at his bedside. They believe Many Fires may have died from injuries from being beaten by police.

The police version is that Many Fires collapsed and hit his head on the floor.

A fatality inquiry is being conducted by homicide detectives to verify the cause of death. Such an inquiry is also being conducted into the death of a 16-year-old youth who allegedly hanged himself by his bootlaces in a police station on Jan. 7. It isn't known if the youth was also Native.

85% say no to Indian Act changes

First Nations governments and organizations have mounted a country-wide campaign against proposed changes to the Indian Act.

In surveys, 85 per cent of Native people oppose the changes, according to Ovide Mercredi, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Before Christmas, Mercredi delivered over 100 letters from Native organizations protesting the changes.

Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin introduced the amendment in the House of Commons before Christmas.

At first, Irwin had proposed to do only minor tune-ups to the Indian Act, like changing outdated language.

But now, there are pages of amendments that include changing the legal status of First Nations to make them more like corporations.

Also, he would alter the definition of property rights so that land could potentially be transferred to non-Natives through mixed marriages.

None of the changes affect taxation, but the government has said in the past that it believes Native people should pay

continued on page 9

FIRST NATIONS YOUTH REHABILITATION CENTRE

CENTRE DE READAPTATION JEUNESSE DES PREMIERES NATIONS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Funded by Health Canada, the Centre will be receiving up to 12 First Nations Youth of both sexes that are abusing solvents. The six month residential treatment will include components of pre and post treatment presenting significant interface with the communities. The program and services being provided at the Centre will be bilingual in French and English, as well as encouraging the use of any of the first nations languages. This is a new program, operational activities are due to start in February 1997. The temporary Centre is located in Caplan, (Gaspéste), in Quebec and about one hour from Campbellton, New Brunswick.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Under the supervision of the Executive Director, the Program Coordinator is responsible for the coordination, development and implementation of the rehabilitation centre's treatment programs, pre and post programs and family (significant ones) component of the program. More specifically, the Program Coordinator is responsible for the evaluation and revision of all aspects of the programs and program's policy; supervision and professional development of counseling and other program staff, the development and maintenance of professional client record-keeping, client follow-up and recovery statistics.

Requirements:

- post-secondary education in Human Sciences or Addictions;
- experience and knowledge in youth intervention, preferably residential;
- experience and knowledge in addications of the youth people, preferably with solvent abuse;
- clear understanding of approaches used in youth residential programming;
- familiarity with traditional healing practices
- fluently bilingual in French and English, verbal and written;
- ability to speak a First Nations language would be considered an asset;
- committed to personal wellness and role modeling;
- available to work under the provision of a two-year contract;
- having a valid class 4-B driver's license and clear driving record.

Yearly Salary:

minimum $45,000 with a maximum depending on qualifications.

Beginning of Employment:

Immediately.

Résumé should be received at the following address before five o'clock (17:00) on January 24, 1997:
First Nations Youth Rehabilitation Centre,
P.O. Box 1009, Maria, Quebec,
G0C 1Y0
or by fax at (418) 388-5548.

Télébec presents its latest business solution.

To better serve its clients, Télébec is ever in search of new solutions – the latest of which is the proud appointment of Mr. Roger Gauthier to the position of Vice-President, Sales and Business Solutions. A member of the Télébec team for the past 24 years, this resident of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region – business and administration graduate from UQAT – knows the company and its clients inside-out. Mr. Gauthier will now be leading the Sales and Customer Services departments for SMEs and major clients with the help of General Managers Norm Kelly, Denis Dion and Mario Carrier. Roger will be working primarily from his office in Val-d'Or, but he'll also be seen in the Anjou and Bécancour offices. It's going to be challenging. But if we know Roger, he's probably already found the solutions.

Télébec
Close to you

continued from page 7

all the taxes other Canadians now pay.

The Assembly of First Nations believes Irwin did not consult Native peoples properly about the changes, as is required under the Canadian Constitution.

Ovide Mercredi said Irwin's changes contradict the recent report of the Royal Commission. Georges Erasmus, Co-Chair of the Royal Commission, agreed: "Our report has a better approach that what Ron Irwin is proposing."

Irwin hasn't responded to the Royal Commission's report.

The proposed law is available by calling (819) 997-0380 or a regional Indian Affairs office.

17 kids arrested in Davis Inlet rampage

Seventeen youths in Davis Inlet were arrested after a rampage through their school on New Year's Day.

The Innu kids, aged 13 to 21, took an axe to the front door of the Nukum Maini-Shan School sometime in the night and left the building in ruins at 8 a.m., undetected, the next morning on Jan. 2.

They were apparently on gasoline and solvents.

The principal's office and staff room were wrecked and splattered with paint. Gym equipment was thrown around and fire extinguishers were emptied. Ceilings were torn out so the kids could move from room to room. Walls and furniture were smashed and soaked with paint. Books littered the library floor.

The school was closed for two weeks. Police arrested two 13-year-olds, a woman, three men and 11 youths, five of them girls.

Most were charged with breaking into and damaging the school. One was also charged with stealing a stereo.

Compromise on fur ban

The European Union has decided not to ban Canadian fur imports, after a heated debate by European politicians.

The powerful European anti-fur movement has promoted the ban for five years because of what they called inhumane trapping practices.

But European officials have decided against the ban after threats of trade retaliation by Canada and the U.S.

The European ban was due to come into effect in January. But Canada, Russia and the European Union reached an 11th-hour compromise in December to phase out steel leghold traps over four years. A padded version will still be allowed.

The compromise was denounced by some European politicians as a "cosmetic change" that did nothing to ease the suffering of animals. They ordered the European Commission to proceed with the ban.

PHOTO BY ERNEST WEBB

Reggie Scipio, Chisasibi

Homes for Children

From Homes for Children, a foster home agency:

Sally is a shy and likeable 10-year-old Mohawk girl who needs a foster family for at least a year.

Sally loves arts and crafts, and is a fun-loving child with many interests. She has had many losses in her life which have left her feeling very sad and angry. Barely talking about her feelings, Sally may sometimes express them by talking back and refusing to cooperate.

She needs a family which can be firm and consistent, while giving her lots of individual attention and helping Sally to express her pain in other ways. A foster family able to support Sally's close attachment to her mother would be ideal.

If you want to hear more about Sally, please call Homes for Children at (514) 695-5251 and ask for Gillian.

Crees, Cherokee less likely to have Alzheimer's

Crees, the Cherokee of Oklahoma, the Amish, Nigerians and Japanese people are all attracting the attention of scientists trying to cure Alzheimer's disease.

Millions of Canadians and Americans have the fatal disease, which destroys the victims' minds and kills more than 100,000 people a year.

There is no known cure, but scientists are now focusing attention on nations of people who seem to be virtually immune to the disease, like the Crees of Northern Manitoba. In a 1993 study, only one Cree Elder of 200 studied in the villages of Norway House and Nelson House had Alzheimer's.

That's a rate of 0.5 per cent. In contrast, 3.5 per cent of elderly whites in Winnipeg had the disease.

Scientists believe some peoples may have certain genes or proteins that reduce the risk of Alzheimer's. They are trying to pinpoint those genes and proteins, and then produce medicine from what they learn.

Diet, use of traditional medicine and lifestyle could also play a role. Cree Elders have a chance to transmit knowledge to the youth, which provides the intellectual stimulation that might help prevent the onset of Alzheimer's.

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Creation of the Caribou

Told by George Diamond

Interview by Ernest Webb
Transcribing and translating by Brian Webb
Photos by Neil Diamond

When the caribou was created, he did a variety of things. He was taught how to sit. He was told, "This is how you will sit when sitting." "Now, move." "Jump from your sitting position," he was told. "That is what you will do when you feel the presence of people." "That is when you will jump from your sitting position." That's what the caribou does. It is unseen that he simply gets up; he jumps up from the sitting position.

Then the caribou leave. They say to each other, "We don't know where each of us are because we don't smell each other." "Let's go back." They went back. They reached where they were created. The caribou are asked, "What are you doing?" They said, "We don't know where each of us are because we don't smell each other." Their little tails were urinated on and were told, "That is how you will be." Now they have a strong smell. That is how they know where one another are.

They moved on, eating. They were told that moss was given to them to eat - the white caribou moss. They had some difficulty because their muzzles were very pointed. They said, "We have difficulty eating." "Let's go back." Again, they told where they had their difficulty. What was done was their mouths were pressed on. Now, the caribou have a flat muzzle. Now, it is good for feeding on the moss.

Again, they said, "The people will be afraid of us because our teeth are like a dog's." They said, "Let's go back." They went back. They were asked, "What are you doing again?" They told why they went back again. "We don't want teeth like this because when the people are created, they will be afraid of us." "Yes, we will fix you." Only two were left. Their teeth were pushed in. Now they have teeth that way, just like ours. That is what the caribou's teeth are like. That was where they were made differently.

When you see a caribou head, you will find the teeth here on one side and not on the other side. Those ones were pushed in. They are pointed just like a dog's. That is how their teeth are like. Then the caribou said, "Now, that is how we will look." That's how my grandfather told the legend.

Then they reached a wolf as they were walking. The caribou and wolf said to each other, "We are to sing." The caribou is told, "You sing first." So, the caribou sang. "*Nichiichischeyihten waahpaashikuschekaau waahpaashchikimaau kiyaa.*" That was how he sang.

The caribou and wolf said to each other, "We are to sing." The caribou is told, "You sing first." So, the caribou sang. "*Nichiichischeyihten waahpaashikuschekaau waahpaashchikimaau kiyaa.*" That was how he sang.

"And now you," the wolf is told. The wolf sang. He said as he was singing, "*Nichiichischeyihten uhpaashpaashtaam chiniwaahyaau.*" He wanted to sing his song to surpass the caribou.

The wolf wanted to outdo what the caribou was saying. The caribou said it with truth - he knew how his grandfather laid out the land and the lakes. This was what the caribou was saying. And when the wolf was singing, he said, "*Nichiichischeyihten uhpaashpaashtaam chiniwaahyaau.*" He was doing it deceitfully.

I discovered the signs where a caribou surpassed the wolf. I saw the signs of a wolf that had crept up to the caribou while eating. Then they followed a lake. The wolf jumped like this. The caribou used his legs as fast as he could - jumping into the bush. And the wolf jumped in. Then he stopped pursuing him in the woody area. And why did he stop pursuing him there? He knew that he wouldn't be able to defeat the caribou that he was pursuing. It wasn't long ago that I saw what they had apparently done - the wolf pursuing the caribou trying to kill him.

Acknowledgements

This legend is the first in a series we will be presenting in the coming issues. The Legends Series starts with George Diamond of Waskaganish. My thanks to Mr. Diamond for taking the time and being patient with us. This legend represents a small part of the whole interview. I am grateful for all he has given. Also thanks goes to Brian Webb for his transcription and translating services. And to Air Creebec for getting us there. Neil Diamond for his photos. This series is made possible with the help of the **Canada Council.** Our gratitude to Rocky Paul-Wiseman and the Canada Council for their understanding and support.

- Ernest Webb

Montreal AutoShow 97

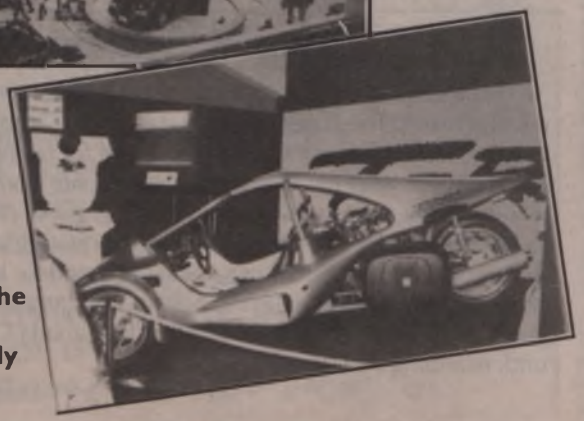
One of the first things to catch my eye at Montreal's Car Show was one of the info-commercial lads happily throwing grease and acid on his car and then polishing it away. I almost asked for his autograph but the models you see on the show were nowhere to be found. As a matter of fact this year's show had none of the car models normally assoiciated with car shows and pin-up garage calendars. No doubt this was because one of the special events was *Design With A Feminine Touch*. This reflects the growing impact that women are having on the automobile market as consumers.

The Auto Show, held in January at the Big O, is a must for the serious buyer. Nowhere else can you compare so easily the differences between the different makes, models and brands. Before stopping to admire I would recommend a quick walk around the floor to scope out what interests you the most. There is too much to remember if you check them all out one by one. By the time you see the last vehicle you may have forgotten that gem at the beginning. The show is truly huge with 32 car manufacturers and 50 exhibiters taking part. There are literally hundreds of cars and accessories to see.

My pick of the show was the 1997 Mazda MX-5 Miata. A convertable with an in-line 4-cylinder 133 horsepower engine capable of 0-100 km/h in 8.6 seconds. The top speed of this beauty is 196 km/h. The only soft spot on this car is its clearence. It has a minimum clearance of 115 mm or approximately 4.5 inches making it a difficult choice for gravel road driving. But the total comfort and pleasure of this car makes up for that. Suggested retail price is $29,940. For all of you into the Internet more information is available at http://www.mazda.ca.

Photos and Story By
William Nicholls

The Floor



If you're into speed this 3 wheeler takes 4.08 seconds to get to 100 km/h. The Campagna T-REX is only $24,995.

The Vintage European Automobile members show was another special event that drew attention.

Of course everyone was checking out the Hummer. A beautifully rugged-looking vehicle that you know will get you there... wherever that may be. The 16 inch (400mm) clearance on the bottom of this vehicle tells you it is truly an off-road wonder. It can ford streams of up to 30 inches deep with no problems at all. No wonder the U.S. Army chose this honey to replace the Jeep. The only complaint I might have is that it takes 18-19 seconds to get to 100 km/h and its top speed is only 134 km/h. Two-door models start at $68,000 but the prices jump to $93,400 for a fully-loaded four-door hard top. Montreal area dealer Paul Gelinas at 514-725-9395 will be happy to answer any of your questions.

Perhaps the most interesting car I saw all day was Chrysler's Prowler. Old-style design with today's technology. Va va Vroom. A nice machine that'll be guaranteed to turn heads. Distictly purple and proud.

Families should look to the Subaru Outback for an all-wheel drive that sets the standards in stationwagon comfort. Priced to sell at $33 to 34,000.

Chrysler's Eagle Talon

Grand Cherokee

Jeep TJ makes the youth happy.

Jeeps were very much in evidence at this show. Most Jeeps have an 8-inch plus (211 mm) ground clearance. Everyone has seen the Jeeps and not much has been changed. Jeep doesn't fool around with a proven design that much. The Jeep TJ sold for $22,000. Cherokee Sport listed at $31,000 and the Grand Cherokee at $45,885. Another of Chrysler's products caught my eye. The styling was nice and the interior promised comfort on long drives. It was the Eagle Talon clocking in at a mere $21,235.

Volvo kept the standard none exciting functional box design. Some of the new features include separate air conditioning/heat controls passenger and driver, headlights with a washer/wiper system (a must for driving in the winter), fantastic sound system as standard equipment, etc.

a look at what most dealors don't show you.

Nuff said, you can see the pictures and next year check out the Auto Show for yourselves. You won't be disappointed.

Porsche Boxter: Prices start at $56,600 for the basics. I had to ask.

Check out the fold down table. It supports a vise and tools for quick repairs.

Really want that all-terrain vehicle? Give Toyota a call!

Martine Corriveau-Gougeon, President of Télébec.

This year, we've made 40 million resolutions.

In 1997, we'll be investing 40 million dollars. And each dollar represents a resolution to find new solutions for you – concrete solutions that make your life at home, the office or school a little easier... solutions that meet your expectations and needs:

- A $17 million investment will complete the modernization of our network to ensure faster access to the Information Highway, and to a wide variety of new services like Call Display, Call Waiting and Call Return.
- A $15 million investment in the Abitibi network will add kilometers of new fiber optic cables for high speed transfer of voice, data and images.
- A 4% discount in long distance rates for remote regions will be added to the average 50% discount that has been in effect in our entire territory for the past 5 years.
- The Companion wireless communications system is being expanded among business users who wish to be reached anywhere, at one number, within a single building.
- Video-conferencing now provides remote regions with access to vital services like tele-education and tele-medecine.

These resolutions for 1997 are part of a process that has been in effect for several years. It's an on-going effort to offer all Télébec customers unlimited possibilities on this, the eve of a new millennium.

Télébec
Close to you

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

NATION TO NATION

"VIOLENCE IS IN THE WIND"

Excerpts from the Royal Commission report (Official Summary), entitled, "People to People, Nation to Nation":

"There cannot be peace or harmony unless there is justice... Our central conclusion can be summarized simply: *The main policy direction, pursued for more than 150 years, first by colonial then by Canadian governments, has been wrong.*"

"A careful reading of history shows that Canada was founded on a series of bargains with Aboriginal peoples—bargains this country has never fully honoured."

"Aboriginal people's living standards have improved in the last 50 years—but they do not come close to those of non-Aboriginal people... Aboriginal people do not want pity or hand-outs. They want recognition that these problems are largely the result of the loss of their lands and resources, the destruction of their economies and social institutions and denial of their nationhood."

"Aboriginal people have made it clear, in words and deeds, that they will no longer sit quietly by, waiting for their grievances to be heard and their rights restored. Despite their long history of peacefulness, some leaders fear that violence is in the wind."

THE FACTS

Figures from the Royal Commission on First Nations living standards. *Courtesy of The Eastern Door.*

❖ The Native population in Canada is growing at twice the rate of the Canadian population.

❖ Fifty-six per cent of the current Native population is below the age of 25. Two-thirds are under the age of 15.

❖ 300,000 new jobs will have to be created for Native people within the next 20 years if they are going to reach the nine to 10 per cent rate of unemployment of the Canadian population today.

❖ The First Nations population has a low participation rate in the overall Canadian economy. Fifty-seven per cent of Native people participate in the labour force, compared to 68 per cent of all Canadians

❖ The Aboriginal population has a very high unemployment rate. Rates of unemployment among Native people in the labour force rose from 15.2 per cent in 1981 to 24.6 per cent in 1991. This is despite the advances and access to education.

❖ Forty-six per cent of Native people on reserves receive welfare.

❖ Only 42 per cent of Native children finish Grade 12, compared to 61 per cent of non-Natives.

❖ Poor health is a growing problem among Native people. The incidence of tuberculosis is 17 times higher than the Canadian average, while for diabetes it's three times higher than the Canadian average.

CONTINUED P. 18

Working Together We Build The Cree Nation

The Human Resources Development Agreement has now been signed by Canada and by the Grand Council of the Crees. This will allow us to provide the type of adult training courses that the communities need to improve employment. It will also allow us to maintain a level of service through a time of cut-backs. The next phase will be to get Canada and Quebec to fulfill the promises of 1975 to get Crees employed in the management and development of the whole of Eeyou Aschee.

The people of Mistissini have organized a task force with the town of Chibougamau to get the road to Mistissini paved. Local businesses and the Federal and Provincial Governments have been approached to get behind this project.

The Grand Council of the Crees continues efforts to get Quebec to fund the Cree Tourism Association. This was promised in the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement but has yet to be realized. Quebec currently supports the Inuit Association but wants the Crees to form an association which would come under an umbrella structure that would be largely controlled from the south.

The talks continue!

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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)
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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples is a huge, five-volume encyclopedia of information and recommendations. The first print run of 3,000 copies was quickly sold out and more are being printed.

The 440 recommendations can't all be published in *The Nation*, but we have chosen some of them to give readers an idea of the major points in each area. This information is reprinted from *The Eastern Door* newspaper of Kahnawake. For your own copy of the report, costing about $300, call the Royal Commission at (613) 943-2070.

The Commission recommends that a renewed relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada be established on the basis of justice and fairness.

1.16.2

Federal, provincial and territorial governments further the process of renewal by

(a) acknowledging that concepts such as *terra nullius* (uninhabited land) and the doctrine of discovery are factually, legally and morally wrong;

(b) declaring that such concepts no longer form part of lawmaking or police development by Canadian governments;

(c) declaring that such concepts will not be the basis of arguments presented to the courts;

(d) committing themselves to renewal of the federation through consensual means to overcome the historical legacy of these concepts, which are impediments to Aboriginal people assuming their rightful place in the Canadian federation; and

(e) including a declaration to these ends in the new Royal Proclamation and its companion legislation.

That the appropriate place of Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history be recognized. The Commission recommends that

1.7.1

The Government of Canada

(a) commit to publication of a general history of Aboriginal peoples of Canada in a series of volumes reflecting the diversity of nations, to be completed within 20 years.

That the nature and scope of the injury caused to Aboriginal people by past policies in relation to residential scfhools be established and appropriate remedies devised therefor.

The Commission recommends that

1.10.1

Under Part I of the Public Inquiries Act, the government established a public inquiry to

(a) investigate and document the origins and effects of residential school policies and practices respecting all Aboriginal peoples, with particular attention to the nature and extent of effects on subsequent generations of individuals and families, and on communities and Aboriginal societies;

That the nature and scope of the injury caused to Aboriginal people by past policies in relation to the relocation of Aboriginal communities be established and appropriate remedies devised therefor.

1.11.2

Parliament amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to authorize the Canadian Human Rights Commission to inquire into, hold hearings on, and make recommendations on relocations of Aboriginal peoples to decide whether

(a) the federal government had proper authority to proceed with relocations;

Chapter 2, Treaties

With respect to the historical treaties, the Commission recommends that

2.2.2

The parties implement the historical treaties from the perspective of both justice and reconciliation.

2.2.3

The federal government establish a continuing bilateral process to implement and renew the Crown's relationship with and obligations to the treaty nations under the historical treaties, in accordance with the treaties' spirit and intent.

2.2.6

The federal government establish a process for making new treaties to replace the existing comprehensive claims policy, based on the following principles;

(a) the blanket extinguishment of Aboriginal land rights is not an option.

2.2.15

The governments of Canada, relevant provinces and territories, and Aboriginal and treaty nations establish treaty commissions as permanent, independent and neutral bodies to facilitate and oversee negotiations in treaty processes.

Continued p. 21

FAMILY VALUES

Nation Poll

Please fill out the following Family Values poll (anonymously if you want) and look for a drop off box in your community. The locations of the boxes will be announced on the radio. If you wish, you can mail it to Marilyn Bearskin Herodier, c/o The Nation's Chisasibi Office: P.O. Box 151, Chisasibi Qc. J0M 1E0. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Thank you.

1. You are...?

❑ Female ❑ Male

2. Your age is...?

❑ Under 18 ❑ 18-30
❑ 30-45 ❑ 45-60
❑ Over 60

3. Your are from which community?

_____(*optional*)

4. Who in your family is working outside the home?

❑ 1. Woman
❑ 2. Man
❑ 3. Both

5. On a scale from 1-10, how much do you and your spouse do of the following chores? (0=never, 10=all the time, Combined answers should equal 10)

YOUR SPOUSE	YOU	
____	____	Cooking
____	____	Shopping
____	____	Cleaning
____	____	Home improvement
____	____	Outside/garage
____	____	Garbage/Dump
____	____	Bathing children
____	____	Putting kids to bed
____	____	Babysitting

6. If one spouse does little of the above, what do they do?

_____

_____

_____

7. If both spouses are working, do you believe men should share equally in taking care of the children?

❑ Yes ❑ No

8. Which of the following best describes your beliefs?

❑ A woman should obey her husband
❑ There should be equality between a man and a woman
❑ Women should take control and do the work anyway

9. Do you believe a woman's place is in the home?

❑ Yes ❑ No

10. Do you believe being a homemaker is real work?

❑ Yes ❑ No

11. How many nights a week should a mother be allowed to go out? (circle answer)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

12. How many nights should a father be allowed to go out? (circle answer)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

FOR MEN ONLY

13. When your wife goes out with her friends do you feel...?

❑ Angry/resentful (she should be with the kids)
❑ Happy she's getting a break
❑ Feel like it's your turn when she gets home

14. When your wife dresses to go out, you feel...?

❑ Worried she is going to fool around
❑ Proud she looks nice
❑ Can't wait to kiss her when she gets home

FOR BOTH MEN & WOMEN

15. When your spouse talks to other members of the opposite sex, you feel...?

❑ jealous
❑ That they doesn't love you
❑ Happy they have friends and that people find them interesting

16. Have you ever fooled around on your husband/wife?

❑ Yes ❑ No

17. If yes, why?

❑ Doesn't love you enough
❑ Doesn't respect you
❑ He/She hurt you and this is your way of paying them back
❑ No communication
❑ Looking for excitement
❑ In love with someone else

18. Do you try and make it your business to know everything your wife/husband does?

❑ Yes ❑ No

19. How often do you tell your spouse you love them?

❑ Once a week
❑ Once a month
❑ Never/almost never
❑ Every day

20. How often do you find yourself criticizing your spouse?

❑ Once a week
❑ Once a day
❑ Never/almost never
❑ Most of the time

21. Can women be as abusive as men?

❑ Yes ❑ No

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE....

22. Are you abused, or have you ever been abused (emotionally or physically)

❑ Yes ❑ No

FOR MEN ONLY

23. If your wife emotionally or physically abuses you, do you...?

❑ Feel embarassed
❑ Keep it inside and feel hurt
❑ Tell someone
❑ Laugh about it
❑ Not applicable

FOR WOMEN ONLY

24. If you are abused, do you...

❑ Keep it a secret
❑ Think you deserve it
❑ Confront the abuser and ask them to seek help
❑ Not applicable

FOR BOTH MEN & WOMEN

25. Have you ever abused someone?

❑ Yes ❑ No

26. If you ever physically abused someone, do you think...

❑ They deserved it
❑ It was an accident (drunk, don't remember, etc)
❑ Think you need help

27. If you have abused someone, did you seek help for your abusive behaviour?

❑ Yes ❑ No

28. Is someone in your extended family physically or emotionally abused?

❑ Yes ❑ No

29. Have you ever said a woman deserves it?

❑ Yes ❑ No

30. Are there any circumstances where it is justifiable to beat a woman?

❑ Yes ❑ No

31. Do you believe many women ask for it, or intentionally provoke the abuse?

❑ Yes ❑ No

33. If yes, why? (use additional paper if you need to)

_____

_____

_____

_____

34. Have you ever intervened to stop abuse?

❑ Yes ❑ No

35. Should family intervene to stop abuse?

❑ Yes ❑ No

36. What would you say to an abuser? (use additional paper if you need to)

_____

_____

_____

37. What would you say to an abused victim? (use additional paper if you need to)

_____

_____

_____

38. Have you ever bragged, or heard someone brag about abusing their spouse?

❑ Yes ❑ No

39. If you beat your spouse, or know someone who beats their spouse, how long have you (or they) been doing it?

_____

40. If you are beaten, or know someone who is beaten, how long has it been going on?

_____

42. Do you think most abuse happens to...

❑ Men ❑ Women
❑ Both

43. Do you believe someone should stay in a relationship even if they continue to be beaten?

❑ Yes ❑ No

44. If you are abused, or if you know someone who is abused, has anyone pressured you (or them) to stay in the relationship?

❑ Yes ❑ No

45. Would you stay in an abusive relationship for the children?

❑ Yes ❑ No

46. Do you believe separation or divorce is a good solution in some circumstances?

❑ Yes ❑ No

47. Have you ever taken your frustrations out on your children?

❑ Yes ❑ No

48. Have you ever abused your spouse or been abused in front of your children (emotionally or physically)?

❑ Physically ❑ Verbally
❑ Both ❑ Never

49. Do you think children of abusive families learn that abuse is normal?

❑ Yes ❑ No

50. If nothing changes, will those children likely go on to become abusers or victims of abuse?

❑ Yes ❑ No

THANK YOU.

Your Name *(optional)*:

_____

If you would like to be contacted, or would like to tell your story, please write your address and phone number below. It will not only help you, but it will help others also.

Address:

_____

_____

Phone Number:

_____

If I contact you, I will keep all names and people involved confidential.

Marilyn Bearskin-Herodier

Chapter 3, Governance

With regard to the establishment of Aboriginal governance, the Commission concludes that

1. The right of self-determination is vested in all the Aboriginal peoples of Canada... The right finds its foundation in emerging norms of international law and basic principles of public morality.
2. When exercized by Aboriginal peoples within the context of the Canadian federation, the right of self-determination does not ordinarily give rise to a right of secession, except in the case of grave oppression or disintegration of the Canadian state.
3. Aboriginal peoples are not racial groups; rather they are organic political and cultural entities... They have the capacity to evolve over time and change in their internal composition.
4. The right of self-determination is vested in Aboriginal nations rather than small local communities... Currently, there are between 60 and 80 historically based nations in Canada, compared with a thousand or so Aboriginal communities.

The Commission therefore recommends that

2.3.2
All governments in Canada recognize that Aboriginal peoples are nations vested with the right of self-determination.

2.3.7
All governments in Canada recognize that the right of self-government is vested in Aboriginal nations rather than small local communities.

2.3.8
The government of Canada recognize Aboriginal people in Canada as enjoying a unique form of dual citizenship, that is, as citizens of an Aboriginal nation and citizens of Canada.

2.3.9
The government of Canada take steps to ensure that the Canadian passports of aboriginal citizens
(a) explicitly recognize this dual citizenship; and
(b) identify the Aboriginal nation citizenship of individual Aboriginal persons.

2.3.10
Aboriginal nations, in exercising the right to determine citizenship, and in establishing rules and processes for this purpose, adopt citizenship criteria that
(a) are consistent with section 35 (4) of the Constitution Act, 1982;
(b) reflect Aboriginal nations as political and cultural entities rather than as racial groups, and therefore do not make blood quantum a general prerequisite for citizenship determination.

Other Recommendations

- An additional House in Parliament should be created known as the House of First Peoples to restore to Native people their voice.
- An in-depth public inquiry should be held into the origins and effects of residential schools.
- All governments should commit themselves to training 10,000 aboriginal health and social service professionals and ensure that students receive support to achieve this goal.
- The federal government should provide an annual grant of $10 million over a five-year period to support an aboriginal languages foundation
- The Commission recommends that $2 billion must be spent each year by the Canadian government to improve First Nations living standards in addition to money already spent. If this isn't done, in the long run, the entire Canadian economy will lose money and all Canadians will suffer.

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Jan. 23-26, 1997
at the Neoskweskau Memorial Arena in Mistissini

DIVISION INSCR.	INSCRIPTION FEE	PRIZE $$$
Class "A"	$700	Champions $5000.00 Finalists $3000.00
Class "B"	$600	Champions $4000.00 Finalists $2000.00
Broomball	$600	Champions $4000.00 Finalists $2000.00
Oldtimers	$500	Champions $2500.00 Finalists $1250.00

NOTE: PRIZE MONEY MAY VARY DEPENDING UPON THE NUMBER OF INSCRIPTIONS.

For more information or to enter your team you may contact:
Jean Baptiste Loon or Robie Petawabano, Mistissini Recreation Dept.
Phone: (418) 923-3461 ext. 246 Fax: (418) 923-3115

Certified cheque or money order must be made payable to Neoskweskau Memorial Tournament and sent to:
Mistissini Sports and Recreation Department
187 Main Street
Att.: Jean Baptiste Loon
Mistissini Lake, Quebec, G0W 1C0

NOTE: THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF $10 PER PLAYER FOR THE WEEKEND PASS.

Maamuitaau
On CBC TV

January 18 and 19
Today we bring you highlights of the Cree musical festival Maamu Nikamutaau which was held last year in Ouje-Bougoumou.

January 25 and 26
How far will a community go to keep it alcohol free. **Maamuitaau** brings you the story of Waskaganish and its unusual methods of stopping the flow of alcohol. Also on the show a visit with Cree elder Helen Whiskeychan.

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INDIAN BOYHOOD

In 1862 the eastern Sioux Indians, the Santee of Minnesota, rose up against white settlers, killing some 800 men, women and children within a month. American retaliation was swift, and Charles Alexander Eastman, then four years old, was among the Santee refugees who fled to Canada for sanctuary. When his father was turned over to United Stares authorities, relatives raised the boy near Fort Ellis in southern Manitoba.

Born with the Indian name "The Pitiful Last, " but later called "the Winner" (Ohiyesa), Eastman did not see a white person until he was 16. He then became one of a stream of Indians who since the 18th century had attended Dartmouth College. In 1890 he earned his medical degree from Boston University. Just after the turn of the century his books an Sioux life and philosophy gained great popularity, especially among young readers. In this selection from the autobiographical work, "Indian Boyhood" (1902). Eastman recalls his own amazement at his uncle's eyewitness report on white culture.

I had heard marvelous things of this people. In some things we despised them; in others we regarded them as wakan (mysterious), a race whose power bordered upon the supernatural. I learned that they had made a "fireboat." I could not understand how they could unite two elements which cannot exist together. I thought the water would put out the fire, and the fire would consume the boat if it had the shadow of a chance. This was to me a preposterous thing. But when I was told that the Big Knives had created a "fire-boat-walks-on-mountains" (a locomotive) it was too much to believe... I had seen guns and various other things brought to us by the French Canadians, so that I had already some notion of the supernatural gifts of the white man; but I had never before heard such tales as I listened to that morning. It was said that they had bridged the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, and that they made immense houses of stone and brick, piled on top of one another until they were as high as high hills. My brain was puzzled with these things for many a day. Finally I asked my uncle why the Great Mystery gave such power to the Washichu (the rich)—sometimes we called them by this name—and not to us Dakotas [Sioux].

"For the same reason," he answered, "that he gave to Duta the skill to make fine bows and arrows, and to

Wachesne no skill to make anything."

"And why do the Big Knives increase so much more in numbers than the Dakotas?" I continued.

"It has been said, and I think it must be true, that they have larger families than we do. I went into the house of an Eashicha (a German), and I counted no less than nine children. The eldest of them could not have been over 15. When my grandfather first visited them, down at the mouth of the Mississippi, they were comparatively few; later my father visited their Great Father at Washington, and they had already spread over the whole country.

"Certainly they are a heartless nation. They have made some of their people servants—yes slaves! We have never believed in keeping slaves, but it seems those Washichu do! It is our belief that they painted their servants black a long time ago, to tell them from the rest, and now the slaves have children born to them of the same color!

"The greatest object of their lives seems to be to acquire possessions—to be rich. They desire to possess the whole world. For 30 years they were trying to entice us to sell them our land. Finally the outbreak [Minnesota, 1862] gave them all, and we have been driven away from our beautiful country.

"They are a wonderful people. They have divided the day into hours, like the moons of the year. In fact, they measure everything. Not one of them would let so much as a turnip go from his field unless he received full value for it. I understand that their great men make a feast and invite many, but when the feast is over the guests are required to pay for what they have eaten before leaving the house. I myself saw at White Cliff [the name given to St. Paul, Minnesota] a man who kept a brass drum and a bell to call people to his table; but when he got them in he would make them pay for the food!

"I am also informed," said my uncle, "but this I hardly believe, that their Great Chief [President] compels every man to pay him for the land he lives upon and all his personal goods—even for his own existence—every year!" [This was his idea of taxation.] "I am sure we could not live under such a law. . . .

"In war they have leaders and war-chiefs of different grades. The common warriors are driven forward like a herd of antelopes to face the foe. It is on account of this manner of fighting—from, compulsion and not from personal bravery—that we count no coup on them. A lone warrior can do much harm to a large army of them in a bad country."

It was this talk with my uncle that gave me my first clear idea of the white man.

CHARLES ALEXANDER EASTMAN,
Santee Sioux

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CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

We would like to congratulate our friend Kitty Mianscum and Charlie Brien Jr. on the birth of their baby girl on Dec 27 '96. Deidre Tammra Brien. God bless you little girl with love Candice, John and Kristen Gunner.

101-BIRTHDAYS

This year we decided to broadcast your birthday to the Nation. Happy birthday going out to Allan Etapp Dec. 30, 1996. Remember older is wiser. Merry x-mas & happy new year. Keep him always before you. Fr: Jo & the boy'z & many more.

Our precious pride, Bentley Jamal Matoush-Dash, will be celebrating his 1st birthday on December 24th. Happy Birthday Booboo (boombastic)!! Your very ban-das-teek. Love, mom and dada

---

Happy birthday Booboo!! I hope next year we'll be able to really wrestle. Love, Googalee.

Happy 1st birthday to our adorable son Trevor Joshua on Jan. 5. You are and always will be the love of our lives. There will never be enough words to say or enough ways to show how much we love you. We are proud to say that you're our son. You have brought joy and happines into our lives and we thank God for that. with all our love, mom (Minnie) and dad (Robie) xoxoxoxo

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I would like to wish a Happy belated birthday to a friend of mine Celina Wapachee on Dec 21/96. Happy 16th birthday. Good luck with G.T. I am glad to have such a good friend like you. Wishing you happiness on your special day and many more to come. Friends are 4-ever. from a friend of yours in Nemaska. Guess who?? P.S. Don't party too much.

I would like to wish a happy birthday wish to my cousin. The motocrossing champ. Katejun Coonishish on December 20. Hope your wishes will come true and be nice for Santa, he'll be here soon. From Nikita Shecapio Blacksmith Fr. Chibougamau.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my daddy Christopher and my mommy Annie. Hey!! Mommy can I blow out your candles for you like I did to daddy. I love you both so much. With love, your son Corey Nathan.

I would like to wish a happy 15th b-day to Nellie W. on Dec. 8 or 9. Also to my cousin Vicky Bosum on Dec 22 happy b-day (Aywetch! stee shteededadano) just kidding. I hope you two have fun but don't over do it especially u Nellie! From friend always Theresa B. (OJay)

I would like to wish a "happy b-day" to my broe Stanley Bosum in Whap. I really miss u since u moved away. I hope everything turns out for the better for u and your family. Take care of the little one! Love ya! Sis! Theresa B.

Happy b-day to my brother Richard B. on Nov. 29. Hope you had a good time also you are a special person to me. You make me laugh even when I'm upset. Take care and keep smoking you run faster everyday! Just kidding. Love your sis, Theresa B.

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Money order payable: Beesum Communications. *The Nation* reserves the right to modify or refuse a classified. NOTE: We cannot ensure the accuracy of all classifieds.

I would like to wish a happy 3rd birthday to my sweet and cute granddaughter Alexandrea Coon which will be on Feb 3rd, 1997. You love me ILY so much. Her nickname is "Mouse" but she's more sweeter than a mouse. May god bless you always you're so special love you so much from love & prayers

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CLASSIFIEDS

Grandma Josephine Coon. Also to my grandson Bedabin Coon. Happy 4th birthday to you my sweet and handsome it will be on Feb 18th. More to come ILY and miss so much because you're always far away from us living in Quebec for three years now but don't forget we love you so much your're so special like Barney says everyone is special. Love & prayers Grandma Coon. God bless you.

We want to wish happy birthday to our granddaughter Murrea Meekwin Coon which is on Jan. 9th her 3rd birthday. Everybody loves you because you're so sweet in everything you do and you're so cute too love you so much and may the good lord bless and guide you always because you're so special Barney says so too. We are a happy family with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you. Won't you say you love me too. Love and prayer Grandma Coon.

We would like to wish a happy 20th birthday to Karen Bosum on Jan 6th/97. Alright don't party this year you might slip and fall! Anyway have a wonderful time on your day. Hope your wish comes true. Love: Weena and John.

A special happy birthday wish going out to a great aunt Gloria Gunner, she celebrated her birthday on Jan 1, '97. I also like to thank her for keeping me when my mom wanted a sitter. And also happy 1st birthday to Tiffany-Ann Gunner with love Alway Kristen Mattawashish (Gunner)

A happy belated birthday to a fine handsome boy who celebrated his birthday on Dec 15. Hope you had everything you wanted and also a merry christmas to you . We love you so much. From mom & dad & your sister.

104-GRADUATIONS

I would like to congratulate to a special person in my life John R. Etapp for completing his heavy equipment operator course in Troils. you had your hardships & disappoints about getting sponsored. You never did give up once and I am really proud of you! I love you for it. I know you are doing your best to help yourself too. I believe in you, so is your family too. Remember we luv u and appreciate u. Keep searching your dream! Love Weena B.

LE PICK

I would like to say hello to the 2 Waskaganish girls I met in Toronto. (Hope you saw my picture) From "The Lips".

200-FOR SALE

Books for sale. All about Moosonee/Moose Factory area before you visit. Please send $10.00 for info to: Peter Nakogee, PO Box 555, Moosonee, Ontario, P0Y 1Y0

To all Ski-doo lovers serious buyers only year 95. I have a Tundra LT for sale asking for $1,500.00. Never went to a race. I like to drive around with it. Address is Annie Bosum, PO Box 81, Ouje-Bougoumou, Que, G0W 3C0.

300-PERSONALS

I would like to say hi to two special friends Sylvia Georgekish and Hazel Weapinicappo from Wemindji. I hope I'll see you guys soon! P.S. miss ya. Friends always A.D. (Amos).

I would like to say hi to my cousins, friend and family in Mistassini. Take it all easy! (especially you Edgar and Ian G.) P.S. I miss ya all. Fr: Bianca Gunner.

I would like to say hi to my cuz Jennifer Ottereyes from Waswanipi. Bonne fete ben en retard. Oh! by the way, what's new? Write me soon. The address is 230 Abitibiwinni St., Pikogan, Que., J9T 3A3. P.S. miss ya. From: Angela Diamond (Pik)

We would like to say hi to our special friends Amanda and Priscilla Coon-Come from Waskaganish. So when are you guys coming back in Pikogan (Amos)? 'Cause we miss you a lot. P.S. Take care of yourselves. Friends always Angela Diamond and Bianca Mapachee.

We would like to say hi to our friend I guess we met on the phone Paul Sealhunter. Nice talking to ya! I hope we get to see ya someday. From: Pamela A. Cindy K. & Claudia S. in Ojay. Take care. You will never guess who we are!

It's never too late to say "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!" to these guys Bill & Kirby B. in Nemaska and especially to Gordon in Wask. We think you'll remember us in Val d'Or tournament Dec '96. We, us girls had a great time. See ya! Fr: the three girls you parting with. P.S. Take care!

500-MISC.

To two special people in my life who have given me strength, hope and love to stay sober. Thank you for being there for me. For your encouragement and your love and also a merry x-mas to both of you. I love you both.

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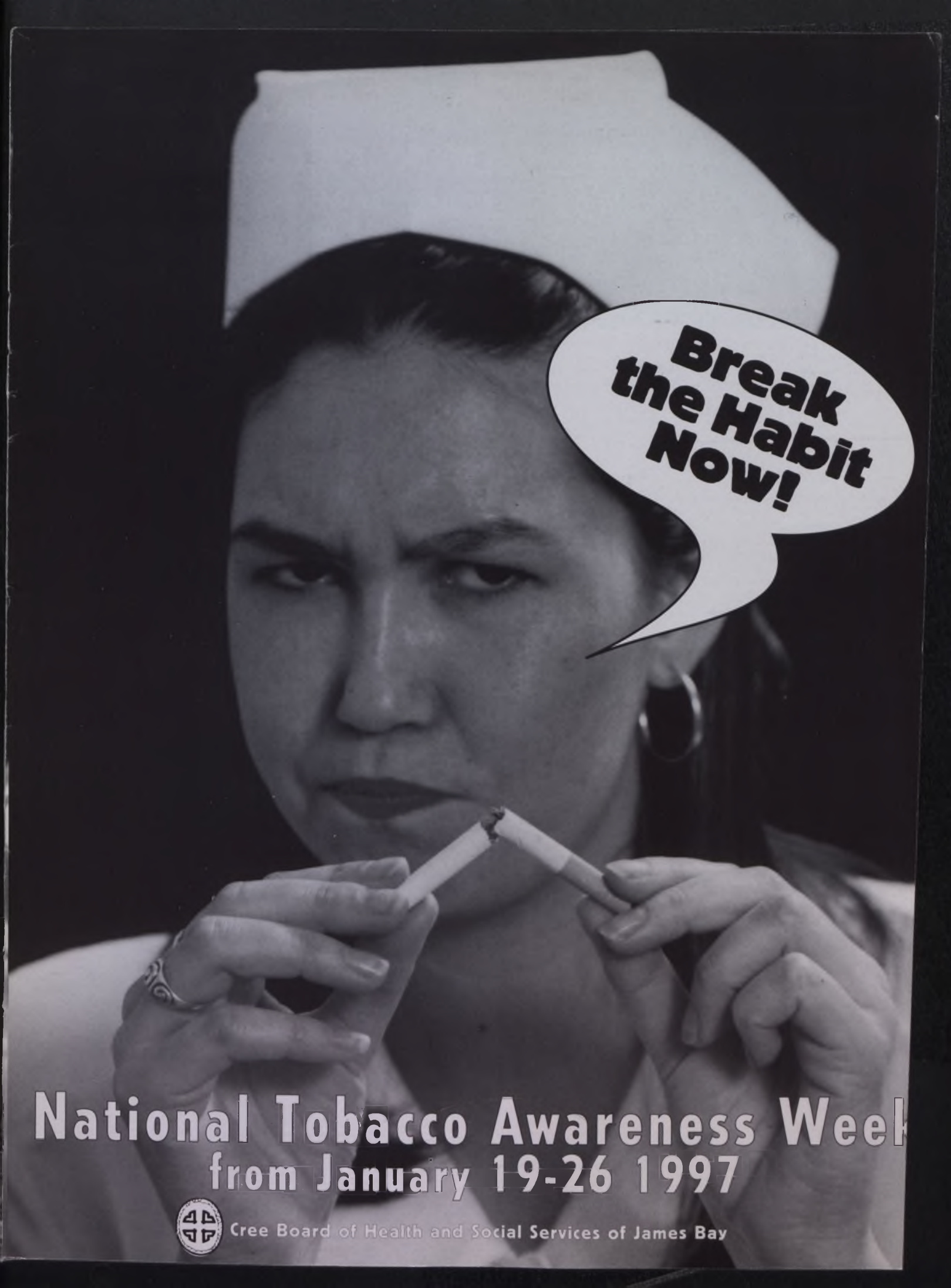
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National Tobacco Awareness Week
from January 19-26 1997
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

CHANGES TO

THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SYSTEM

On January 5, 1997, changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) system took effect. The new system replaced the previous Unemployment Insurance (UI) system on July 1, 1996.

EI provides Canadians with basic income protection, plus a range of new re-employment benefits to help unemployed workers get jobs. Here are answers to questions you may have about some of these important changes.

WHAT'S NEW FOR CLAIMANTS?

Are we now counting hours instead of weeks?
Yes. Every paid hour of work will count to qualify for EI. A minimum of 420 to 700 hours (which is the equivalent of 12 to 20 weeks of 35 hours each) will be required, depending on the unemployment rate in your region.

If you are filing a claim after your first job, or after an absence of 2 years or more from the workforce, you now require 910 hours to qualify.

To qualify for sickness, maternity or parental benefits, a minimum of 700 hours of work is required.

How long can I receive EI?
The number of weeks payable is 14 to 45, depending on the number of hours of insurable employment and the rate of unemployment in your area.

If I work 15 hours or less a week, am I now covered by EI?
Yes. There are no longer any weekly minimum hours or dollars required to have insurable employment. All hours of work will count, and premiums will be payable on every dollar earned. However, if you earn $2,000 or less a year, your premiums will be refunded when you file your income tax return.

Does past receipt of EI benefits affect future claims?
Yes. The normal benefit rate is 55% of your insured earnings. This could be reduced by 1% for every 20 weeks claimed from July 1996. The maximum that the benefit rate can be reduced to, is 50% after 100 weeks claimed. This adjustment to the benefit rate is called the *intensity rule.*

Remember: T*he intensity rule does not apply to people receiving the Family Supplement, sickness, maternity or parental benefits.*

Who can receive the new Family Supplement?
Claimants with children and a family income under $25,921, who also receive the Child Tax Benefit are entitled to the new Family Supplement. Eligible claimants will receive up to 65% of their insurable earnings. However, the maximum benefit still remains $413 a week for all claimants.

Will there be any change to my EI premium deductions as of January?
Yes. The EI premium rate for 1997 is lower than last year. However, as of January you may notice a difference in the way your premium is deducted over the course of the year. There is no longer a weekly maximum of $750 on your insurable earnings. Premiums are now payable on every dollar you earn up to the the yearly maximum of $39,000. Once you have reached $39,000, you will not have to pay any more premiums. For example, if your salary is $58,500 a year, you will pay all your EI premiums in the first eight months and none for the rest of the year.

Am I allowed to earn more than before without losing benefits?
Yes. All claimants, regardless of their income, can earn $50 a week, or 25% of their regular benefit, whichever is *greater,* without facing any loss of benefits.

What are the new re-employment benefits?
The Government of Canada is working with the provinces and territories to put in place new re-employment benefits to help Canadians get back to work.

These benefits may include: *Targeted Wage Subsidies,* to encourage employers to provide on-the-job experience leading to long-term employment; *Self-employment Assistance,* to help unemployed people start their own businesses; *Job Creation Partnerships,* local partnerships to create work opportunities and sustainable jobs in your community.

WHAT'S NEW FOR EMPLOYERS?

The method of reporting employment history has been revised under the new Employment Insurance System. The Government of Canada and employers have worked together to come up with an easier reporting system. An information package has been sent to all employers. If you have not received one, contact your nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada.

What is different about the Record of Employment?
In general, for each employee, you will have to report only the following: the first and last day of work, the total hours worked in the pay periods in the last 53 weeks, and the total insurable earnings for the last 27 weeks.

What is the new hours-based system?
As of January 1, 1997, every hour worked and paid is insurable, which means that earnings of all workers are now insurable.

Are premiums now calculated differently?
Yes. They are now calculated on each dollar of insurable earnings to an *annual* maximum of $39,000, instead of a weekly maximum.

What is the New Hires Program?
If you are a small employer who paid less than $60,000 in employer's premiums in 1996, you will be entitled to a refund in 1997 and 1998, if your overall premium bill goes up by $250.00 or more.

STRICTER ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES

Under EI, claimants who commit fraud now face stiffer rules. More hours of work will be required to qualify for future claims, and financial penalties may increase.

Employers who engage in fraud will also face stricter financial penalties – which can be up to $12,000 per offence or the total of claimant penalties in collusion cases.

If claimants or employers make an honest mistake and forget to give us information, it is not too late to provide it. Under our disclosure policy, we can waive any penalty or prosecution, if the matter is not already under investigation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- call toll free 1 800 276-7655 to receive a brochure on Canada's new Employment Insurance system (TTY 1 800 465-7735)
- visit your nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada listed in the Government of Canada pages of your telephone book under Human Resources Development Canada.
- look on the Internet at http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

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